

For Immediate Release: July 10, 2017

Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation Reaches Conservation Milestone, Ruffed Grouse Restocking Plan Moves Forward

Buffalo MO: Challenged by many wildlife issues, using its local and focused approach to wildlife restoration across the U.S., QUWF is very proud to announce a major conservation achievement in its wildlife conservation efforts. “After nearly a decade of intense habitat preparation using intensive Timber Stand Improvement and Shelter-wood cutting, the Missouri Department of Conservation has approved, and the Conservation Commission supports, the re-stocking program for the native wild ruffed grouse” Craig Alderman announced. “The ruffed grouse has experienced a significant decline due to habitat loss and was about to totally expire in the state when the QUWF Grouse chapter with QUWF National picked up the gauntlet and worked to restore nearly 90,000 prime acres for the grouse” Craig explains.



The Grouse Chapter, located near Hermann, MO, has raised and invested nearly \$500,000 in banquet proceeds, substantial personal member investment and an additional \$500,000 in grants over the years to assist in the extensive habitat work. The MDC has invested a matching amount in the River Hills area, to bring the majestic drummer back to the woods of Missouri. “Many thanks to Sara Pauley, MDC Director, and Tom Draper, Deputy Director for signing off on the recovery and restocking plan, their dedication to Missouri wildlife made this happen” Alderman states.

“We could not be more pleased that after all these years of habitat work, multiple studies, on the ground evaluations and a constant focus on raising funds through QUWF’s model, we begin the final stages for the ruffed grouse” states Tom Westoff, chairman of the Grouse Chapter. “Our banquets draw a packed house year after year and our members and supporters helped raise the immense dollars needed to get the large habitat area ready for grouse restocking” Tom reflects. “More important, our landowner members are doing the work, the intense timber work to get the habitat ready for decades to come” Tom says.

“This is what we formed QUWF for, to put professional biologists and staff together with local, passionate members and enthusiasts willing to put their shoulder to the task and solve it with their raised money” explains Nick Prough, Chief Wildlife Biologist of QUWF and coordinator for the 100 landowner member grouse coop believed to be the largest in Missouri. “This is a historic event both for QUWF, our Grouse chapter and the MDC, this is what true conservation can do and we are very proud of this milestone” Prough explained.

As of January 2016, QUWF and its local chapters and members have impacted 3.2 million acres of wildlife habitat and its chapters spent over \$152 Million Dollars in their local communities. That is “Turnin-the-Dirt™”.

Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation, Inc.™ is the only Disabled American Veteran Founded, tax exempt 501(c)(3) conservation organization in the U.S., serving its members and chapters nationwide. QUWF provides a strong local source of habitat focus on all upland wildlife with population recovery. Millions of dollars of habitat work have been completed by its members over the years on millions of acres of both private and public lands. That work continues with a renewed vitality. Our chapters from coast to coast, provide the grass roots, local habitat work that is making a difference each and every day. For more information or to join QUWF please visit our website at www.quwf.net.

Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation, Inc.

P.O. Box 947, Buffalo, MO 65622; admin@quwf.net